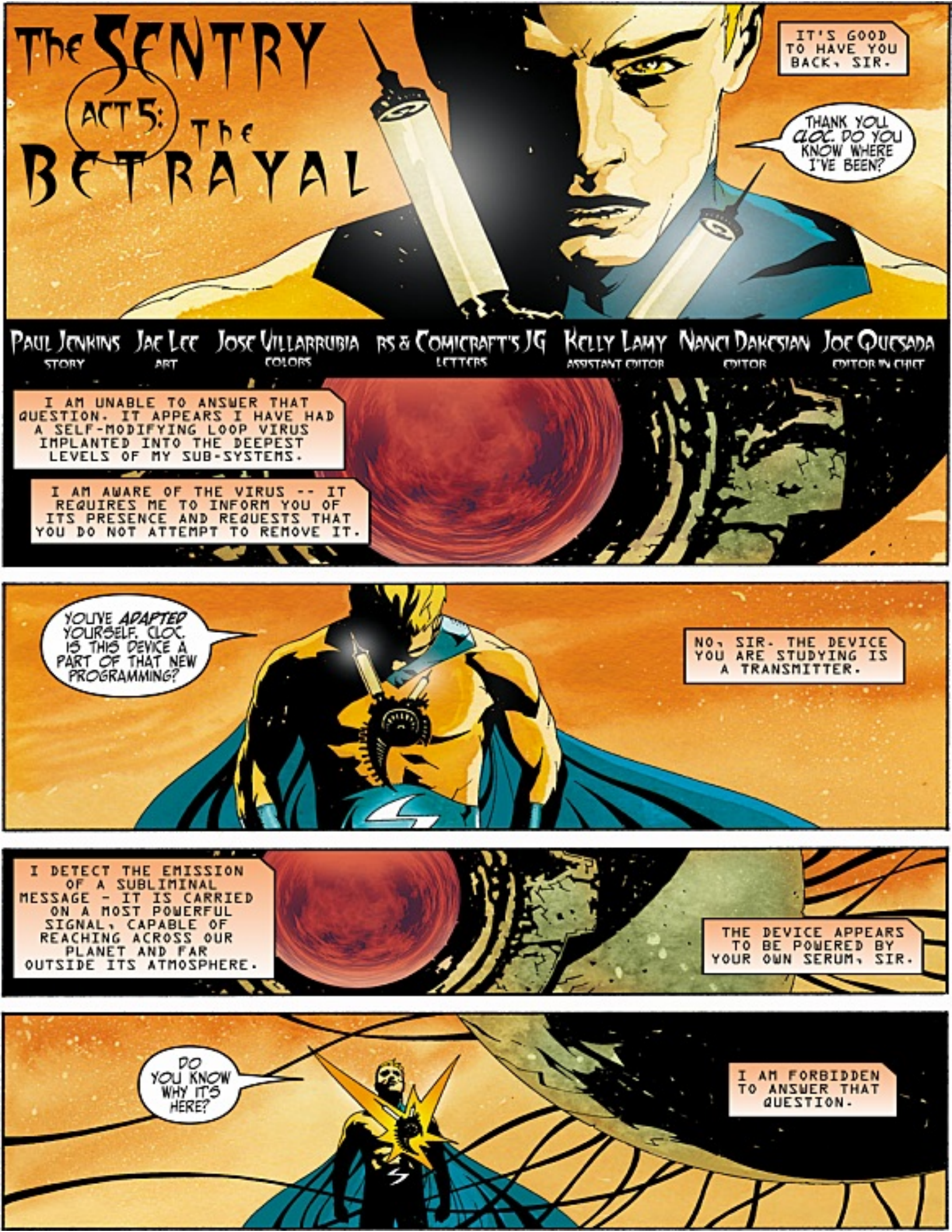
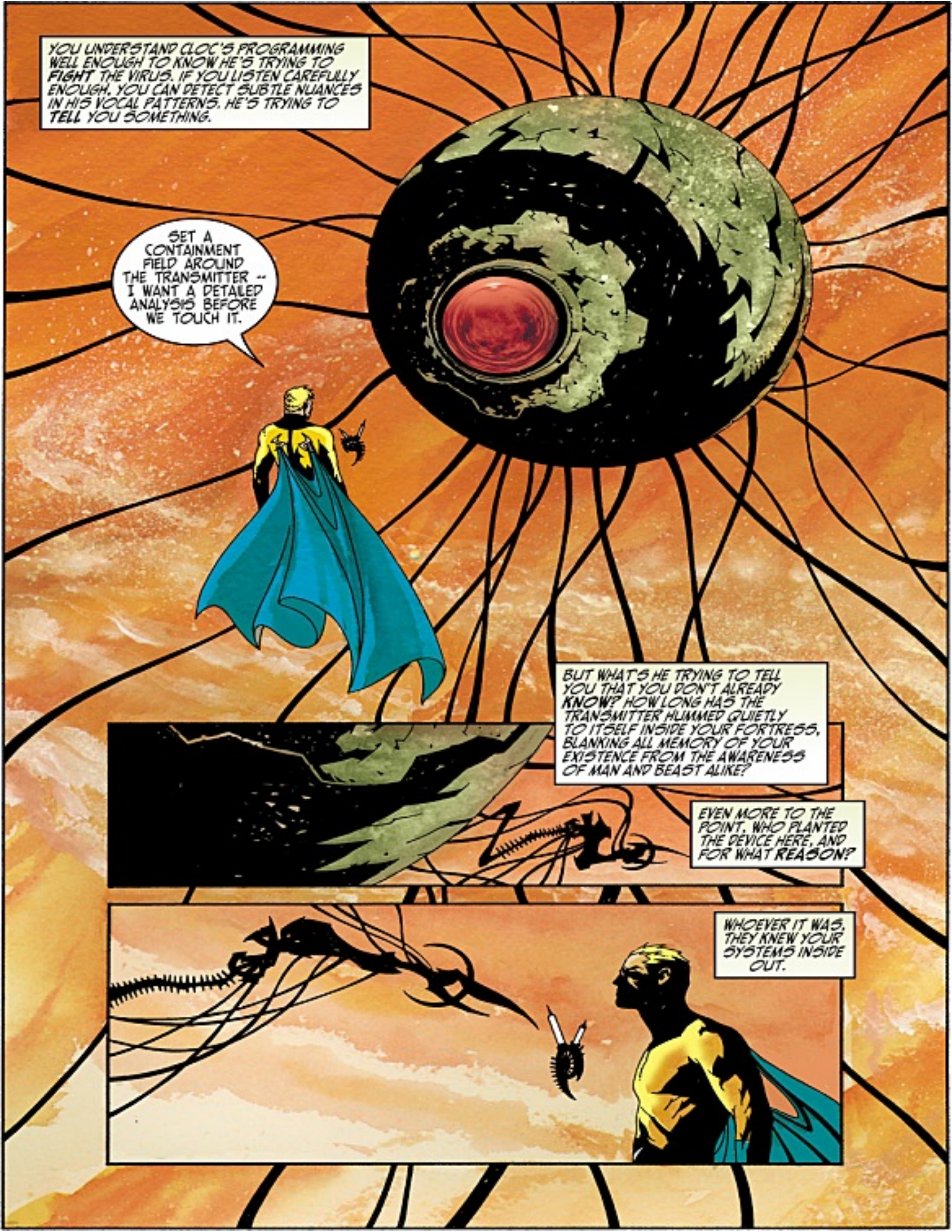
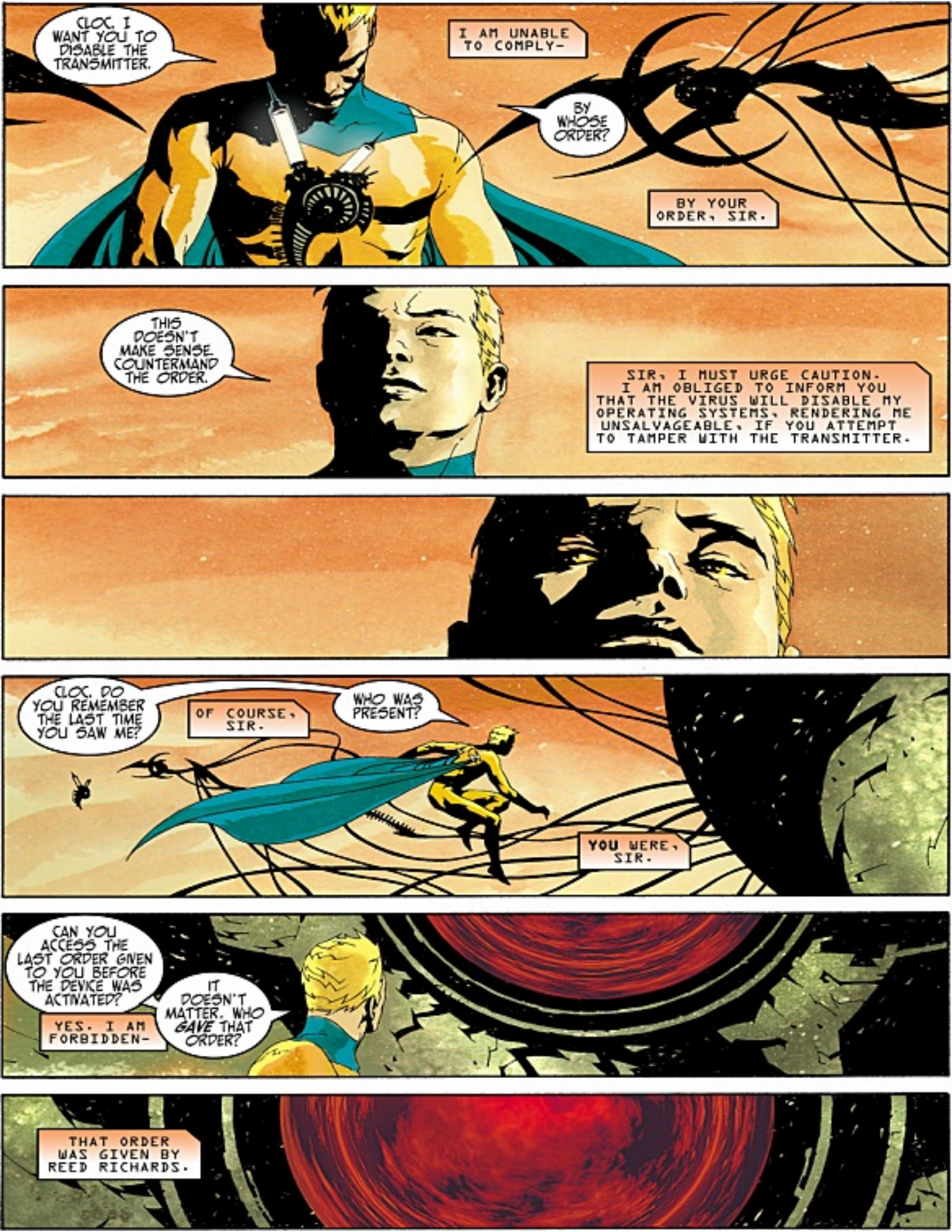
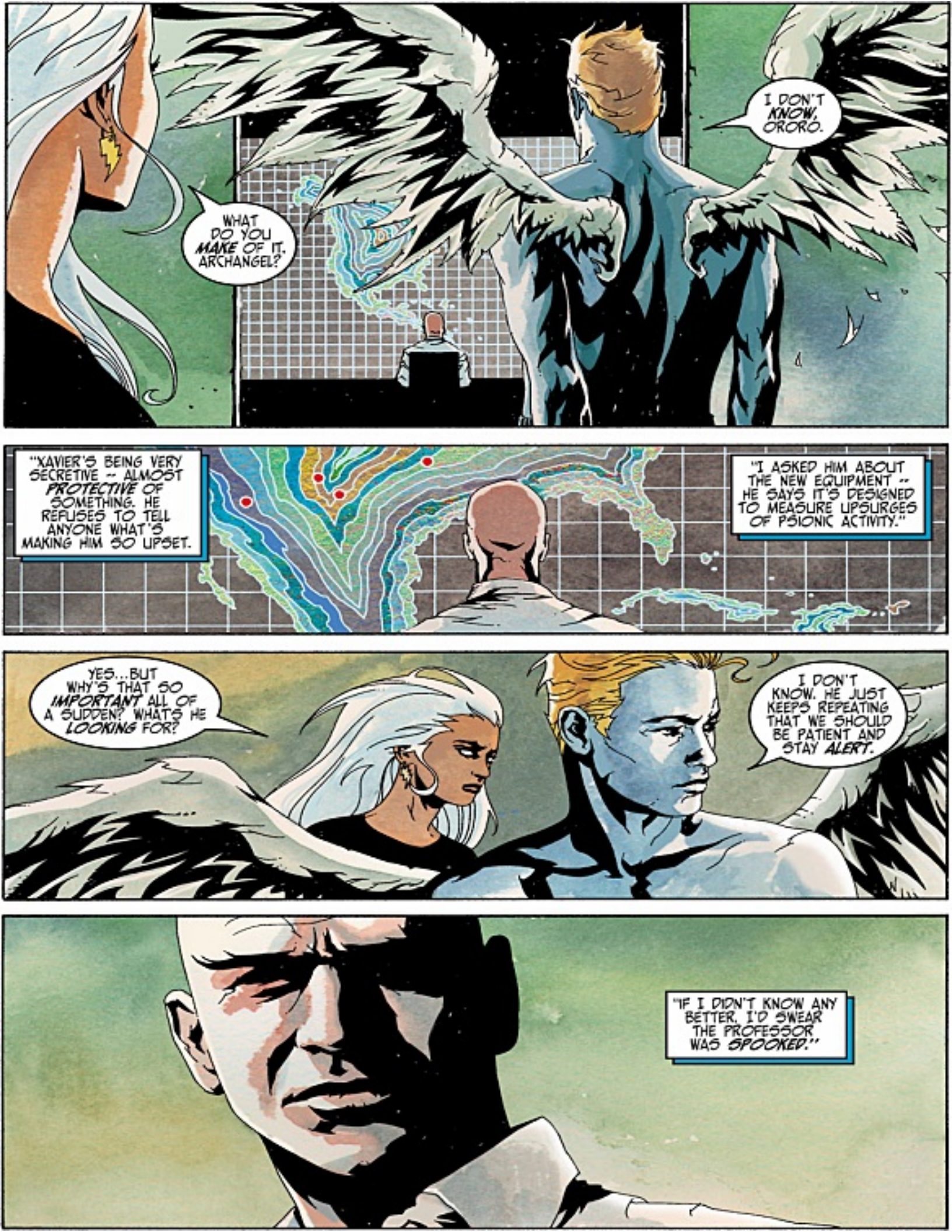
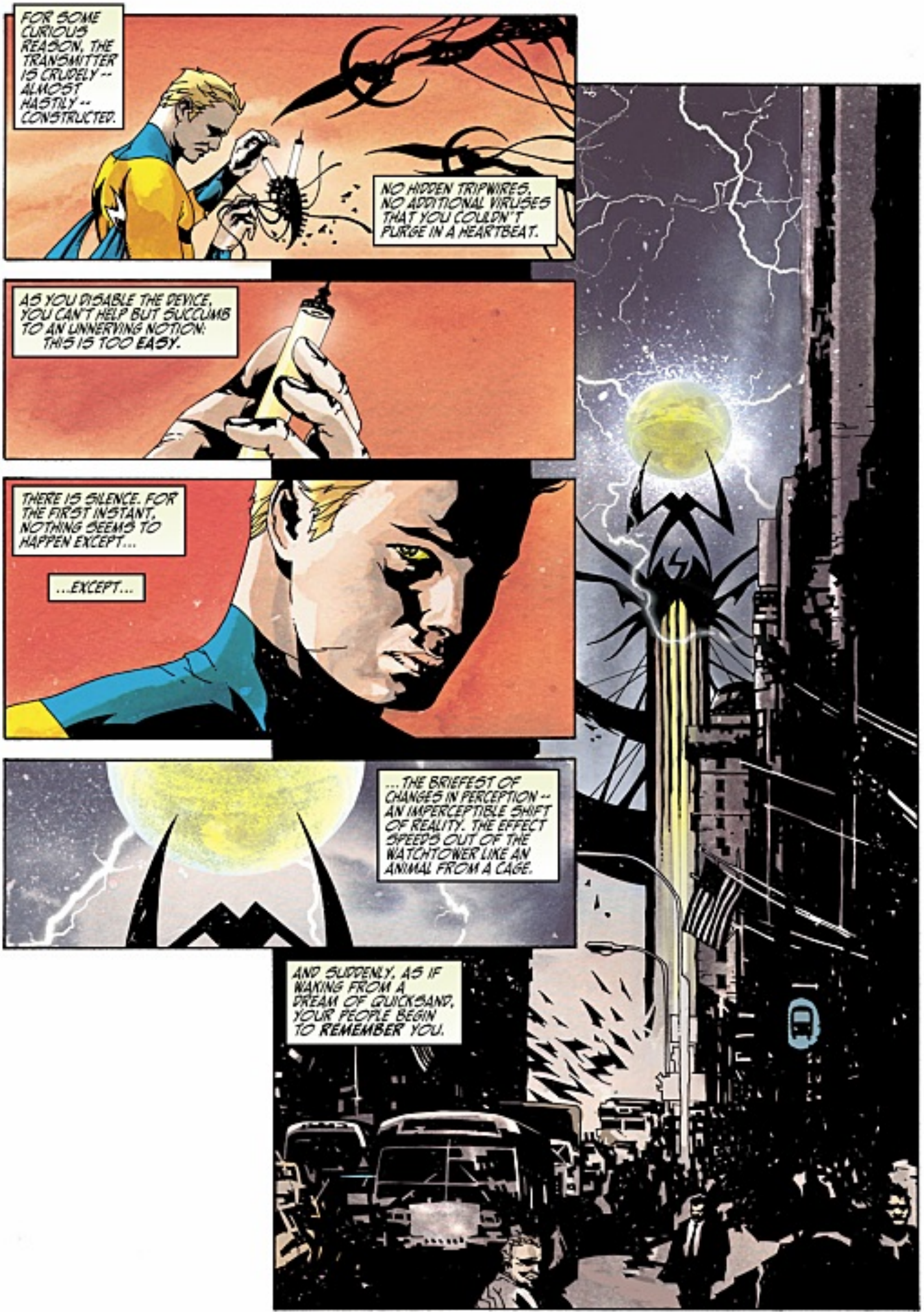
MARVEL
KNIGHTS
#5
THE SENTRY™

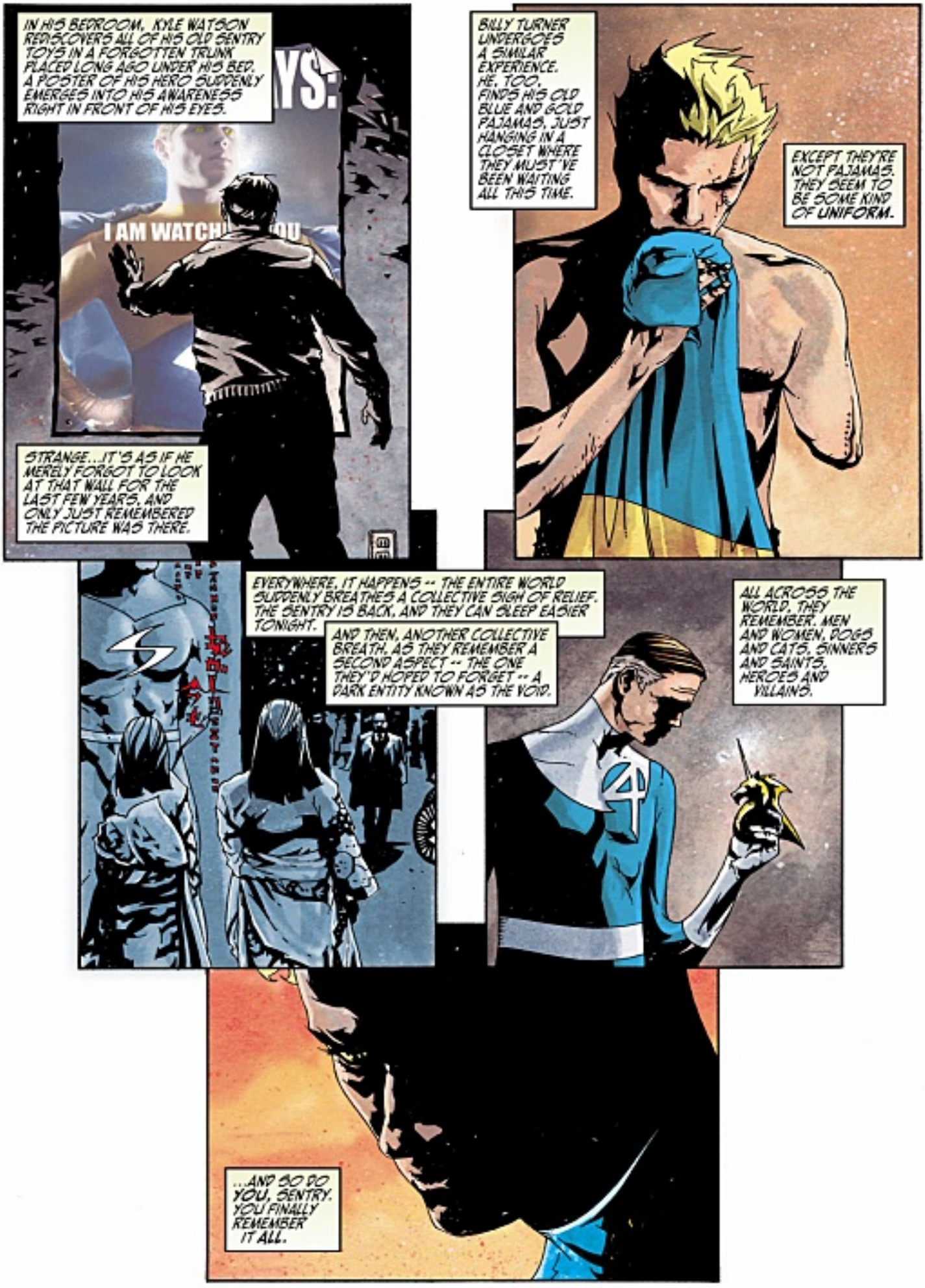

The SENTRY
ACT 5: The BETRAYAL
IT'S GOOD TO HAVE YOU BACK, SIR.
THANK YOU CLOC. DO YOU KNOW WHERE I'VE BEEN?
PAUL JENKINS STORY
JAE LEE ART
JOSE VILLARRUBIA COLORS
RS & COMICRAFT'S JG LETTERS
KELLY LAMY ASSISTANT EDITOR
NANCI DAKESIAN EDITOR
JOE QUESADA EDITOR IN CHIEF
I AM UNABLE TO ANSWER THAT QUESTION. IT APPEARS I HAVE HAD A SELF-MODIFYING LOOP VIRUS IMPLANTED INTO THE DEEPEST LEVELS OF MY SUB-SYSTEMS.
I AM AWARE OF THE VIRUS -- IT REQUIRES ME TO INFORM YOU OF ITS PRESENCE AND REQUESTS THAT YOU DO NOT ATTEMPT TO REMOVE IT.
YOU'VE ADAPTED YOURSELF, CLOC. IS THIS DEVICE A PART OF THAT NEW PROGRAMMING?
NO, SIR. THE DEVICE YOU ARE STUDYING IS A TRANSMITTER.
I DETECT THE EMISSION OF A SUBLIMINAL MESSAGE - IT IS CARRIED ON A MOST POWERFUL SIGNAL, CAPABLE OF REACHING ACROSS OUR PLANET AND FAR OUTSIDE ITS ATMOSPHERE.
THE DEVICE APPEARS TO BE POWERED BY YOUR OWN SERUM, SIR.
DO YOU KNOW WHY IT'S HERE?
I AM FORBIDDEN TO ANSWER THAT QUESTION.

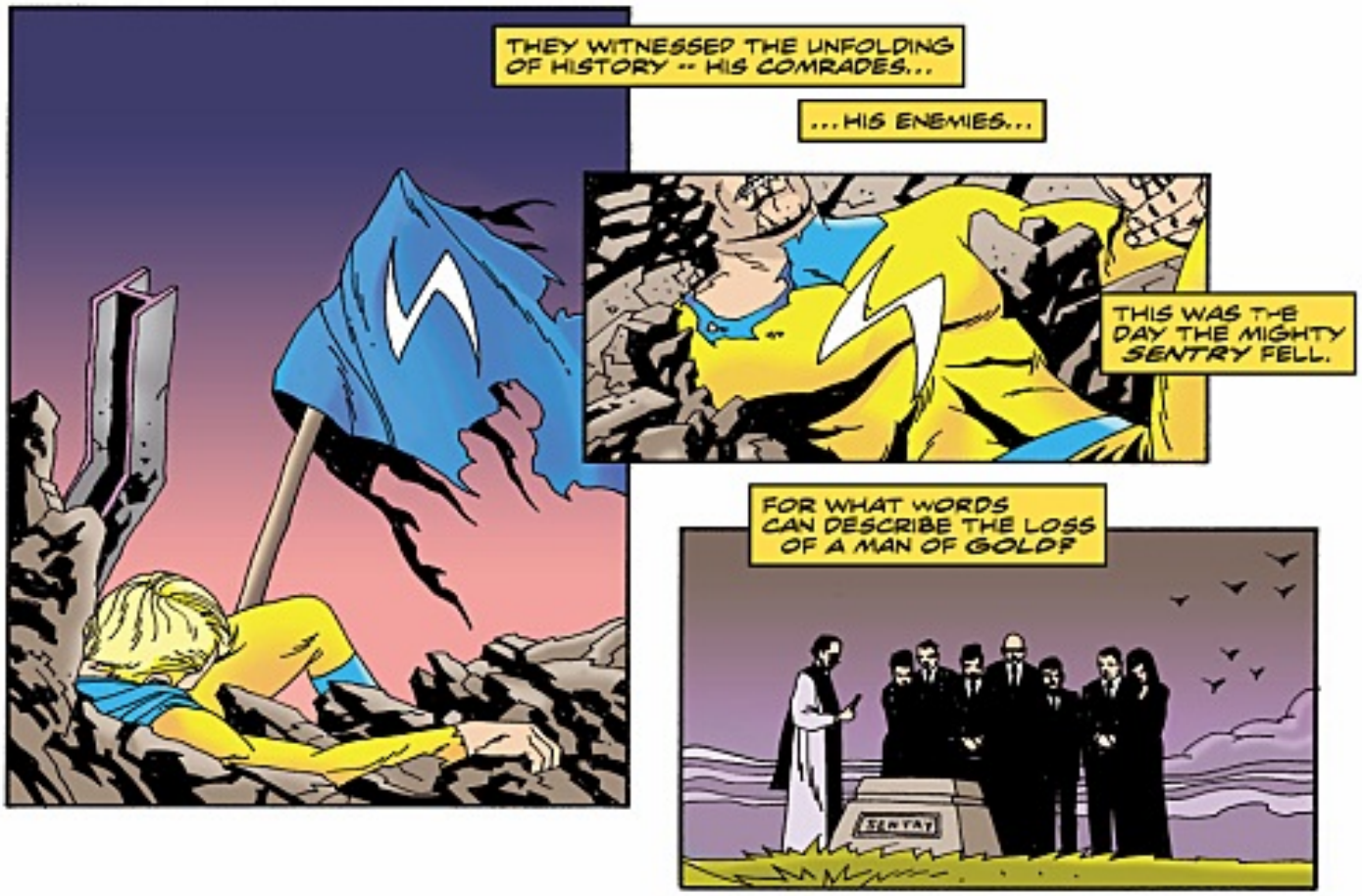

YOU UNDERSTAND CLOC'S PROGRAMMING WELL ENOUGH TO KNOW HE'S TRYING TO FIGHT THE VIRUS. IF YOU LISTEN CAREFULLY ENOUGH, YOU CAN DETECT SUBTLE NUANCES IN HIS VOCAL PATTERNS. HE'S TRYING TO TELL YOU SOMETHING.
SET A CONTAINMENT FIELD AROUND THE TRANSMITTER -- I WANT A DETAILED ANALYSIS BEFORE WE TOUCH IT.
BUT WHAT'S HE TRYING TO TELL YOU THAT YOU DON'T ALREADY KNOW? HOW LONG HAS THE TRANSMITTER HUMMED QUIETLY TO ITSELF INSIDE YOUR FORTRESS, BLANKING ALL MEMORY OF YOUR EXISTENCE FROM THE AWARENESS OF MAN AND BEAST ALIKE?
EVEN MORE TO THE POINT, WHO PLANTED THE DEVICE HERE, AND FOR WHAT REASON?
WHOEVER IT WAS, THEY KNEW YOUR SYSTEMS INSIDE OUT.


CLOC, I WANT YOU TO DISABLE THE TRANSMITTER.
I AM UNABLE TO COMPLY-
BY WHOSE ORDER?
BY YOUR ORDER, SIR.
THIS DOESN'T MAKE SENSE. COUNTERMAND THE ORDER.
SIR, I MUST URGE CAUTION. I AM OBLIGED TO INFORM YOU THAT THE VIRUS WILL DISABLE MY OPERATING SYSTEMS, RENDERING ME UNSALVAGEABLE, IF YOU ATTEMPT TO TAMPER WITH THE TRANSMITTER.
CLOC, DO YOU REMEMBER THE LAST TIME YOU SAW ME?
OF COURSE, SIR.
WHO WAS PRESENT?
YOU WERE, SIR.
CAN YOU ACCESS THE LAST ORDER GIVEN TO YOU BEFORE THE DEVICE WAS ACTIVATED?
YES. I AM FORBIDDEN-
IT DOESN'T MATTER. WHO GAVE THAT ORDER?
THAT ORDER WAS GIVEN BY REED RICHARDS.


WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF IT, ARCHANGEL?
I DON'T KNOW, ORORO.
"XAVIER'S BEING VERY SECRETIVE -- ALMOST PROTECTIVE OF SOMETHING. HE REFUSES TO TELL ANYONE WHAT'S MAKING HIM SO UPSET.
"I ASKED HIM ABOUT THE NEW EQUIPMENT -- HE SAYS IT'S DESIGNED TO MEASURE UPSURGES OF PSIONIC ACTIVITY."
YES...BUT WHY'S THAT SO IMPORTANT ALL OF A SUDDEN? WHAT'S HE LOOKING FOR?
I DON'T KNOW. HE JUST KEEPS REPEATING THAT WE SHOULD BE PATIENT AND STAY ALERT.
"IF I DIDN'T KNOW ANY BETTER, I'D SWEAR THE PROFESSOR WAS SPOOKED."


FOR SOME CURIOUS REASON, THE TRANSMITTER IS CRUDELY -- ALMOST HASTILY -- CONSTRUCTED.
NO HIDDEN TRIPWIRES, NO ADDITIONAL VIRUSES THAT YOU COULDN'T PURGE IN A HEARTBEAT.
AS YOU DISABLE THE DEVICE, YOU CAN'T HELP BUT SUCCUMB TO AN UNNERVING NOTION: THIS IS TOO **EASY**.
THERE IS SILENCE. FOR THE FIRST INSTANT, NOTHING SEEMS TO HAPPEN EXCEPT...
...EXCEPT...
...THE BRIEFEST OF CHANGES IN PERCEPTION -- AN IMPERCEPTIBLE SHIFT OF REALITY. THE EFFECT SPEEDS OUT OF THE WATCHTOWER LIKE AN ANIMAL FROM A CAGE.
AND SUDDENLY, AS IF WAKING FROM A DREAM OF QUICKSAND, YOUR PEOPLE BEGIN TO **REMEMBER** YOU.

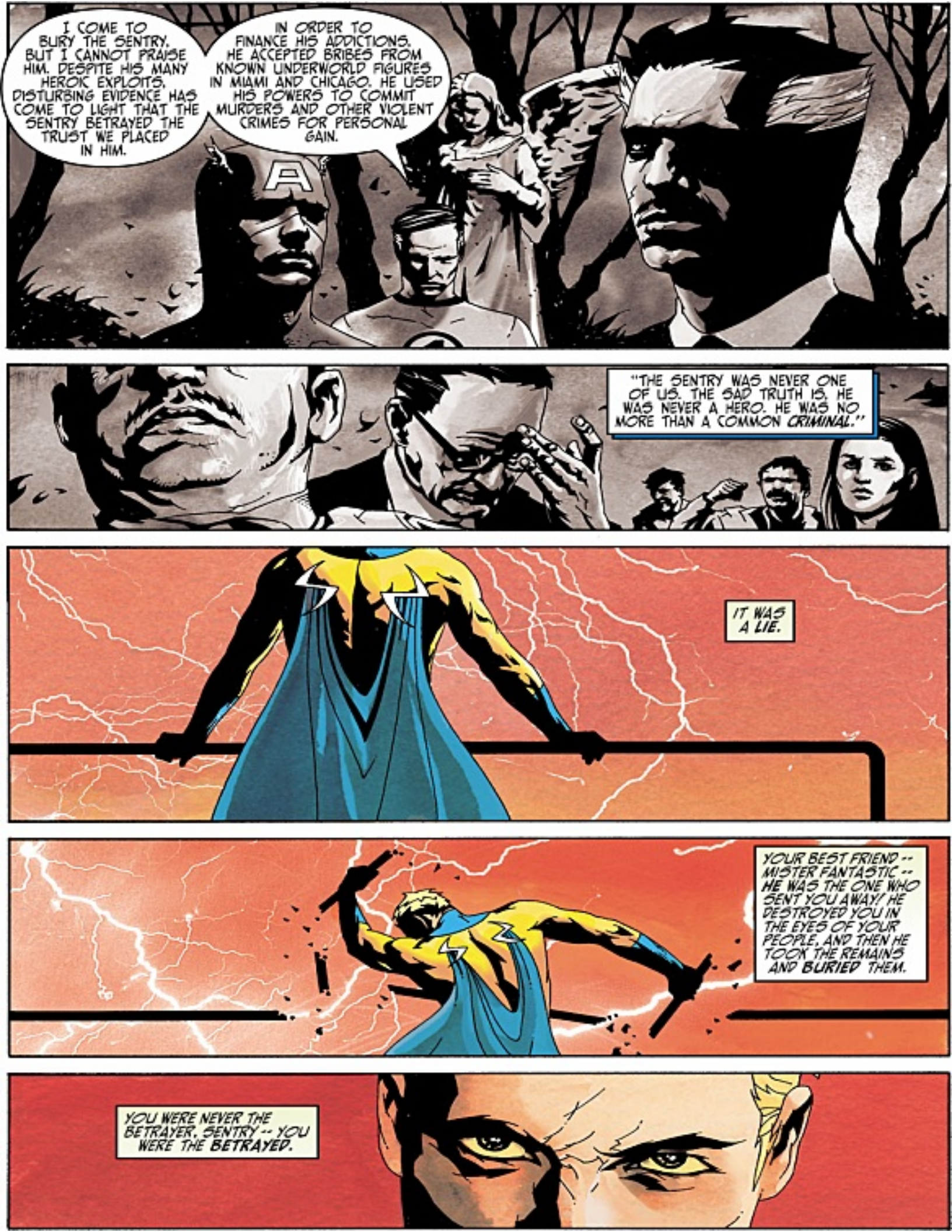

IN HIS BEDROOM, KYLE WATSON REDISCOVERS ALL OF HIS OLD SENTRY TOYS IN A FORGOTTEN TRUNK PLACED LONG AGO UNDER HIS BED. A POSTER OF HIS HERO SUDDENLY EMERGES INTO HIS AWARENESS RIGHT IN FRONT OF HIS EYES.
I AM WATCH
STRANGE...IT'S AS IF HE MERELY FORGOT TO LOOK AT THAT WALL FOR THE LAST FEW YEARS, AND ONLY JUST REMEMBERED THE PICTURE WAS THERE.
BILLY TURNER UNDERGOES A SIMILAR EXPERIENCE. HE, TOO, FINDS HIS OLD BLUE AND GOLD PAJAMAS, JUST HANGING IN A CLOSET WHERE THEY MUST'VE BEEN WAITING ALL THIS TIME.
EXCEPT THEY'RE NOT PAJAMAS. THEY SEEM TO BE SOME KIND OF UNIFORM.
EVERYWHERE, IT HAPPENS -- THE ENTIRE WORLD SUDDENLY BREATHES A COLLECTIVE SIGH OF RELIEF. THE SENTRY IS BACK, AND THEY CAN SLEEP EASIER TONIGHT.
AND THEN, ANOTHER COLLECTIVE BREATH, AS THEY REMEMBER A SECOND ASPECT -- THE ONE THEY'D HOPED TO FORGET -- A DARK ENTITY KNOWN AS THE VOID.
ALL ACROSS THE WORLD, THEY REMEMBER. MEN AND WOMEN, DOGS AND CATS, SINNERS AND SAINTS, HEROES AND VILLAINS.
...AND SO DO YOU, SENTRY. YOU FINALLY REMEMBER IT ALL.


THEY WITNESSED THE UNFOLDING OF HISTORY -- HIS COMRADES...
...HIS ENEMIES...
THIS WAS THE DAY THE MIGHTY SENTRY FELL.
FOR WHAT WORDS CAN DESCRIBE THE LOSS OF A MAN OF GOLD?
SENTRY

YOU DIED, SENTRY. TO ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES, YOU WERE GONE FOR GOOD.
IT WAS A FINAL LOSS OF INNOCENCE. THE END OF A GOLDEN AGE.

BUT YOU WEREN'T REALLY DEAD. IT WAS A SETUP OF SOME KIND. YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO PRETEND.
YOU REMEMBER WATCHING YOUR OWN FUNERAL, STRUGGLING TO ACCEPT THE CRIPPLING SADNESS OF YOUR BELOVED PUBLIC. YOU REMEMBER THE HEROES AND THE HEARSE AND THE UNPRECEDENTED FIFTY-ONE GUN SALUTE.

YOU REMEMBER THE FINAL EULOGY DELIVERED BY YOUR BEST FRIEND ON EARTH --
THE SENTRY WAS A TRAITOR.


I COME TO BURY THE SENTRY. BUT I CANNOT PRAISE HIM. DESPITE HIS MANY HEROIC EXPLOITS, DISTURBING EVIDENCE HAS COME TO LIGHT THAT THE SENTRY BETRAYED THE TRUST WE PLACED IN HIM.
IN ORDER TO FINANCE HIS ADDICTIONS, HE ACCEPTED BRIBES FROM KNOWN UNDERWORLD FIGURES IN MIAMI AND CHICAGO. HE USED HIS POWERS TO COMMIT MURDERS AND OTHER VIOLENT CRIMES FOR PERSONAL GAIN.
"THE SENTRY WAS NEVER ONE OF US. THE SAD TRUTH IS, HE WAS NEVER A HERO. HE WAS NO MORE THAN A COMMON *CRIMINAL*."
IT WAS A LIE.
*YOUR BEST FRIEND -- MISTER FANTASTIC -- **HE** WAS THE ONE WHO SENT YOU AWAY! HE DESTROYED YOU IN THE EYES OF YOUR PEOPLE, AND THEN HE TOOK THE REMAINS AND **BURIED** THEM.*
*YOU WERE NEVER THE BETRAYER, SENTRY -- YOU WERE THE **BETRAYED**.*

:SNFF!:
Oh, BILLY, DO BE CAREFUL --

IT'LL BE OKAY, MOM -- I PROMISE. THIS IS SOMETHING I HAVE TO DO, OKAY? IF YOU NEED ME FOR ANYTHING, USE THE RED PHONE IN THE BASEMENT.

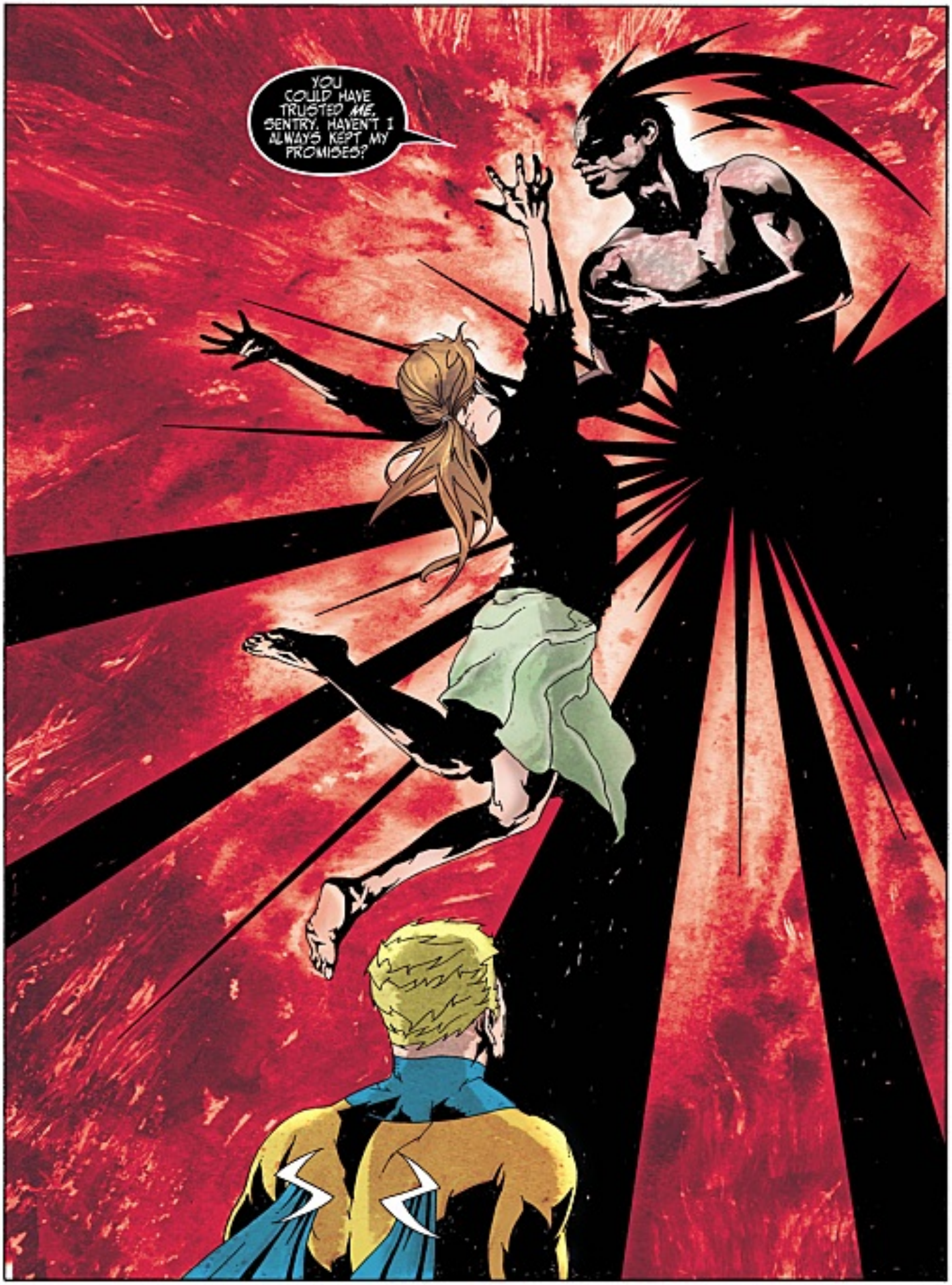
TO THE WATCHWAGON, SCOUT -- WE'RE HUMANITY'S ONLY HOPE!

YEAH, SURE.

WUFF! RRFF!
HEY, NORMIE -- HOW YOU DOING? DID YOU MISS ME, PAL?
BOB?
OH, GOD, BOB...
...I'M SO SORRY.

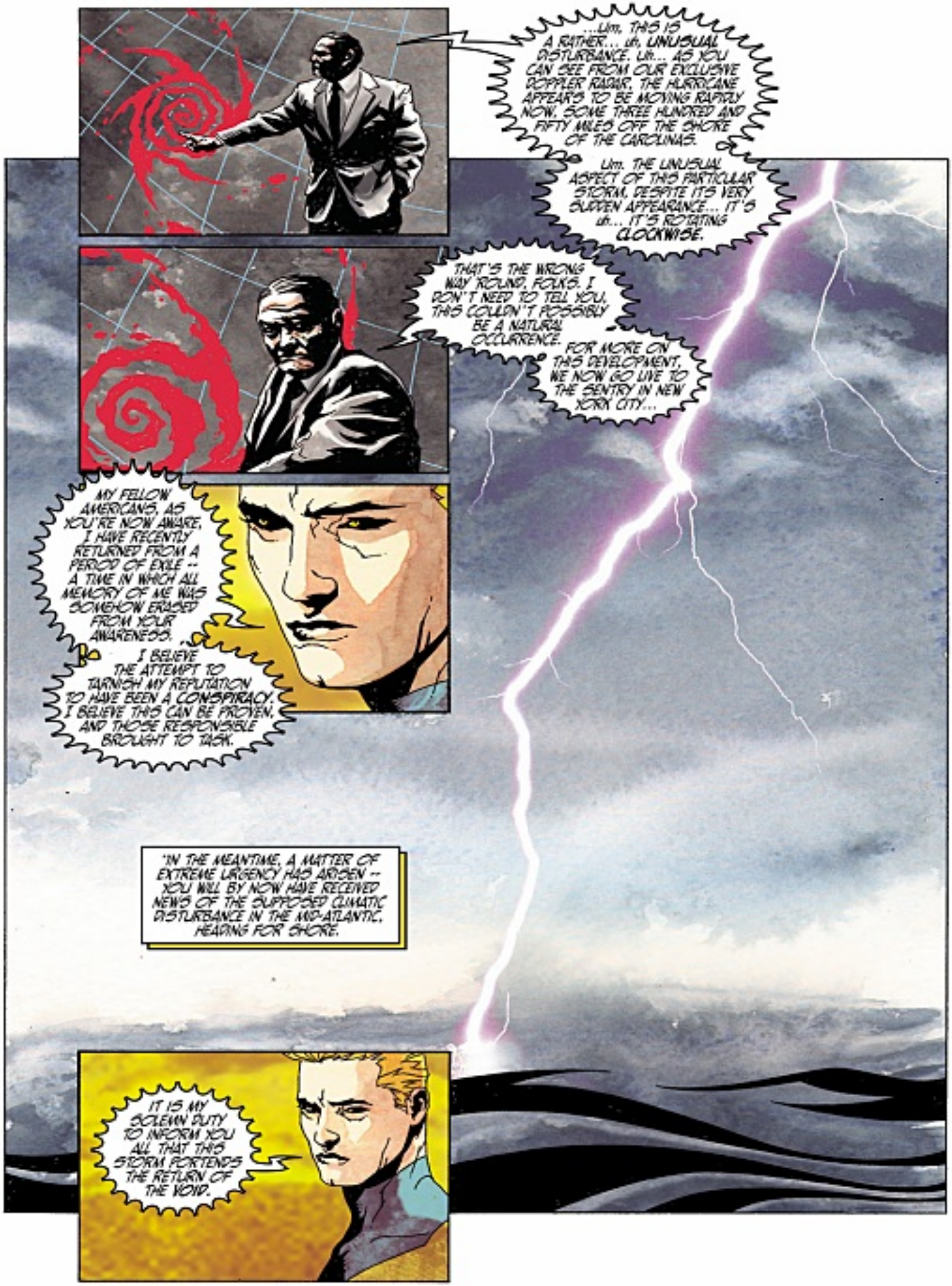
Oh. HOW COULD I HAVE DOUBTED YOU? I DIDN'T KNOW...
I MEAN, I DIDN'T REMEMBER... ABOUT YOU. ABOUT THE SENTRY --
WHAT YOU MUST'VE ENDURED, BOB -- I DIDN'T EVEN REMEMBER ABOUT YOUR AGORAPHOBIA.
YOU MUST'VE THOUGHT I WAS A TOTAL WITCH --
IT'S OKAY, LINDY. REALLY.
IT'S NOT OKAY. DO YOU KNOW WHO JUST "DROPPED BY FOR A VISIT" TODAY? THOR!
I MEAN, I LEAVE YOU ALONE FOR FIVE MINUTES AND THE NEXT THING I KNOW, I'VE GOT SOME SWEDISH BODYBUILDER OR WHATEVER THE HELL HE IS KNOCKING DOWN THE FRONT DOOR. THAT'S NOT NORMAL -- IT'S RIDICULOUS.
HOW'M I SUPPOSED TO DEAL WITH THE FACT YOU'RE A SUPER HERO, FOR CHRISSAKES? I WAS GETTING THE HANG OF THIS LIFE, BEING AWAY FROM THE CITY.
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO NOW? ARE WE MOVING BACK INTO THE WATCHTOWER? CAN I BRING THE CAT?
Afr-Hehh ...I DON'T EVEN KNOW... I DON'T KNOW IF I'M CUT OUT FOR THAT LIFE ANYMORE. *SNIFF*
DO YOU EVEN STILL WANT ME?

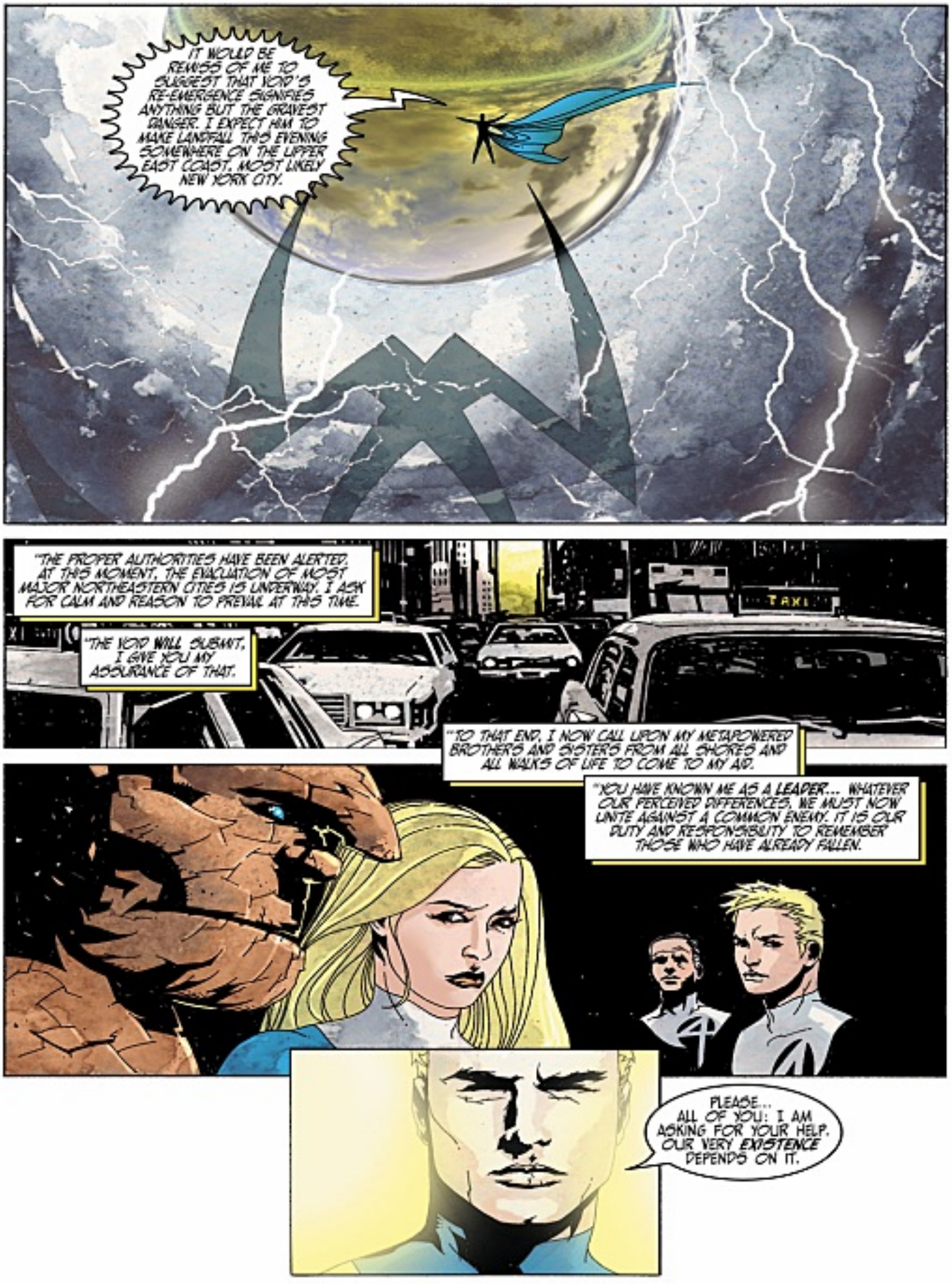
OF COURSE I DO, BABE. FOR AS LONG AS WE *HAVE* -- YOU KNOW THAT. IT'S JUST... I HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF SOME THINGS BEFORE WE CAN GET BACK TO NORMAL.
THEY CALLED ME A TRAITOR, LIND. I DON'T KNOW WHY THEY'D DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT...
Y-YEAH... I REMEMBER. I MEAN... I GUESS I *KINDA* DO.
THEY SAID YOU TOOK BRIBES. OR SOMETHING. BUT THAT'S *CRAZY*. I MEAN, WHAT DIFFERENCE WOULD A BRIBE MAKE TO YOU? YOU *HAD* EVERYTHING YOU WANTED.
IT WAS A *LIE*, LINDY. IT WAS REED RICHARDS -- HE SET ME UP TO TAKE A FALL. AND I DON'T KNOW WHY.
IT JUST DOESN'T MAKE SENSE -- HE WAS THE ONE PERSON I WOULD'VE THOUGHT I COULD TRUST. HOW COULD I HAVE SEEN *THAT* COMING?
RRR... M'ST'RRR... GHRR..!
WUFF! D'NG'RR! WUFF!
WHAT *IS* IT, WATCHDOG? WHAT'S WRONG -- ?


YOU COULD HAVE TRUSTED *ME*, SENTRY. HAVEN'T I ALWAYS KEPT MY PROMISES?

STEP CLOSER, GOLDEN BOY... DECIDE IF YOU TRULY VALUE YOUR FEMALE'S LIFE.
THE DARKNESS HAS YET TO FALL -- PERHAPS I'M NOT YET STRONG ENOUGH TO SNAP HER SPINE LIKE A DRY TWIG. BUT CAN YOU AFFORD TO TAKE THAT CHANCE?
WHAM
JUST AS I THOUGHT. EVER THE SAME SENTRY -- PUSILLANIMOUS LITTLE HEROCHILD WITH A HEART OF WAX.
I *TOLD* YOU I'D COME BACK, ROBERT -- AS YOU ALWAYS KNEW DEEP INSIDE YOUR SOUL I *WOULD*.
...Hhh... WHAT DO YOU WANT, VOID?
WHY, HADN'T YOU HEARD? I WANT IT *ALL* -- THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE AND MORE. TO DEVOUR THE ENTIRETY OF SOULFOOD IN THIS PLACE...HERS *FIRST*, PERHAPS?
PERHAPS *LAST*, JUST SO YOU'LL KNOW IT'S COMING.
EVERY SINGLE ONE OF THEM, SENTRY -- ALL THE WAY THROUGH TO *YOU*.

IS THAT WHY YOU CAME BACK -- TO GET TO ME? WERE YOU THE ONE WHO MADE ME REMEMBER?
DID YOU BRING ME BACK JUST SO THAT YOU'D HAVE SOMEONE --?
Uhh --!
LINDY... IT'S OKAY, BABE -- I GOT YOU.
JUST RELAX. DON'T MOVE...
TH...THE VOID, BOB... HE WANTED ME TO TELL YOU SOMETHING... HE SAYS, "YOU KNOW THE ANSWER."
"LOOK INSIDE."


...Um, this is a rather... uh, unusual disturbance. Uh... as you can see from our exclusive Doppler radar, the hurricane appears to be moving rapidly now, some three hundred and fifty miles off the shore of the Carolinas.
Um. The unusual aspect of this particular storm, despite its very sudden appearance... it's uh... it's rotating clockwise.
That's the wrong way round, folks. I don't need to tell you, this couldn't possibly be a natural occurrence.
For more on this development, we now go live to the Sentry in New York City...
My fellow Americans, as you're now aware, I have recently returned from a period of exile -- a time in which all memory of me was somehow erased from your awareness.
I believe the attempt to tarnish my reputation to have been a conspiracy. I believe this can be proven, and those responsible brought to task.
'In the meantime, a matter of extreme urgency has arisen -- you will by now have received news of the supposed climatic disturbance in the Mid-Atlantic, heading for shore.
It is my solemn duty to inform you all that this storm portends the return of the Void.


IT WOULD BE REMISS OF ME TO SUGGEST THAT VOID'S RE-EMERGENCE SIGNIFIES ANYTHING BUT THE GRAVEST DANGER. I EXPECT HIM TO MAKE LANDFALL THIS EVENING SOMEWHERE ON THE UPPER EAST COAST, MOST LIKELY NEW YORK CITY.
"THE PROPER AUTHORITIES HAVE BEEN ALERTED. AT THIS MOMENT, THE EVACUATION OF MOST MAJOR NORTHEASTERN CITIES IS UNDERWAY. I ASK FOR CALM AND REASON TO PREVAIL AT THIS TIME.
"THE VOID WILL SUBSIST. I GIVE YOU MY ASSURANCE OF THAT.
TAXI
"TO THAT END, I NOW CALL UPON MY METAPOWERED BROTHERS AND SISTERS FROM ALL SHORES AND ALL WALKS OF LIFE TO COME TO MY AID.
"YOU HAVE KNOWN ME AS A LEADER... WHATEVER OUR PERCEIVED DIFFERENCES, WE MUST NOW UNITE AGAINST A COMMON ENEMY. IT IS OUR DUTY AND RESPONSIBILITY TO REMEMBER THOSE WHO HAVE ALREADY FALLEN.
PLEASE... ALL OF YOU: I AM ASKING FOR YOUR HELP. OUR VERY EXISTENCE DEPENDS ON IT.

WHERE IS PUNY HEROES?
HULK IS... HULK IS TRY TO BE STRONG AND BRAVE, GOLDEN MAN.
BUT HULK DOES NOT WANT TO FACE SHADOW MAN ALONE. HULK IS AFRAID.
I KNOW, OLD FRIEND. I'M NOT GOING TO LET HIM HURT YOU AGAIN.
THEY'LL BE HERE... I PROMISE.

YOU WATCH WITH PRIDE AS THEY BEGIN TO ARRIVE -- A TRICKLE AT FIRST...
...BECOMING A SURGE...
...CULMINATING IN A FLOOD OF HEROES. A MASS OF THE STRONG AND THE BRAVE AND THE FOOLHARDY. YOU CAN'T HELP BUT FEEL AWED BY WHAT YOU'RE WITNESSING.
BUT IT'S NO SURPRISE, IS IT? THE CITY'S FILLED TO THE BRIM WITH HEROES.
HOW COULD YOU HAVE EXPECTED ANY DIFFERENT?

I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR COMING. CAN YOU JOIN THE TEAM HEADED BY STORM AND THE SCARLET WITCH -- THEY'LL BE DEFENDING THE COAST DOWN TOWARDS JERSEY.
HEY, BOSS. YOU GOT ROOM FOR ONE MORE?
BILLY? BILLY TURNER... IS THAT YOU --?
IN THE FLESH -- MINUS ONE APPENDAGE, OF COURSE. I FIGURED IF YOU HAD ANY SERUM ON YOU, I'D TAKE MIDTOWN --
YOU SURE ABOUT THIS, SCOUT?
LET'S PUT IT THIS WAY: YESTERDAY I WAS JUST SOME CHUMP FLIPPING BURGERS FOR A LIVING. NOW, I FIND OUT I'M A SUPER HERO WITH A CAPE AN' EVERYTHING. WHO'D'VE FIGURED, huh?
MY MOM'S HAVING CONNIPTIONS. SHE SAYS TO TELL YOU YOU'RE A BAD INFLUENCE --
WELL, SHE'S PROBABLY RIGHT. IT'S GOOD TO HAVE YOU BACK, SON.

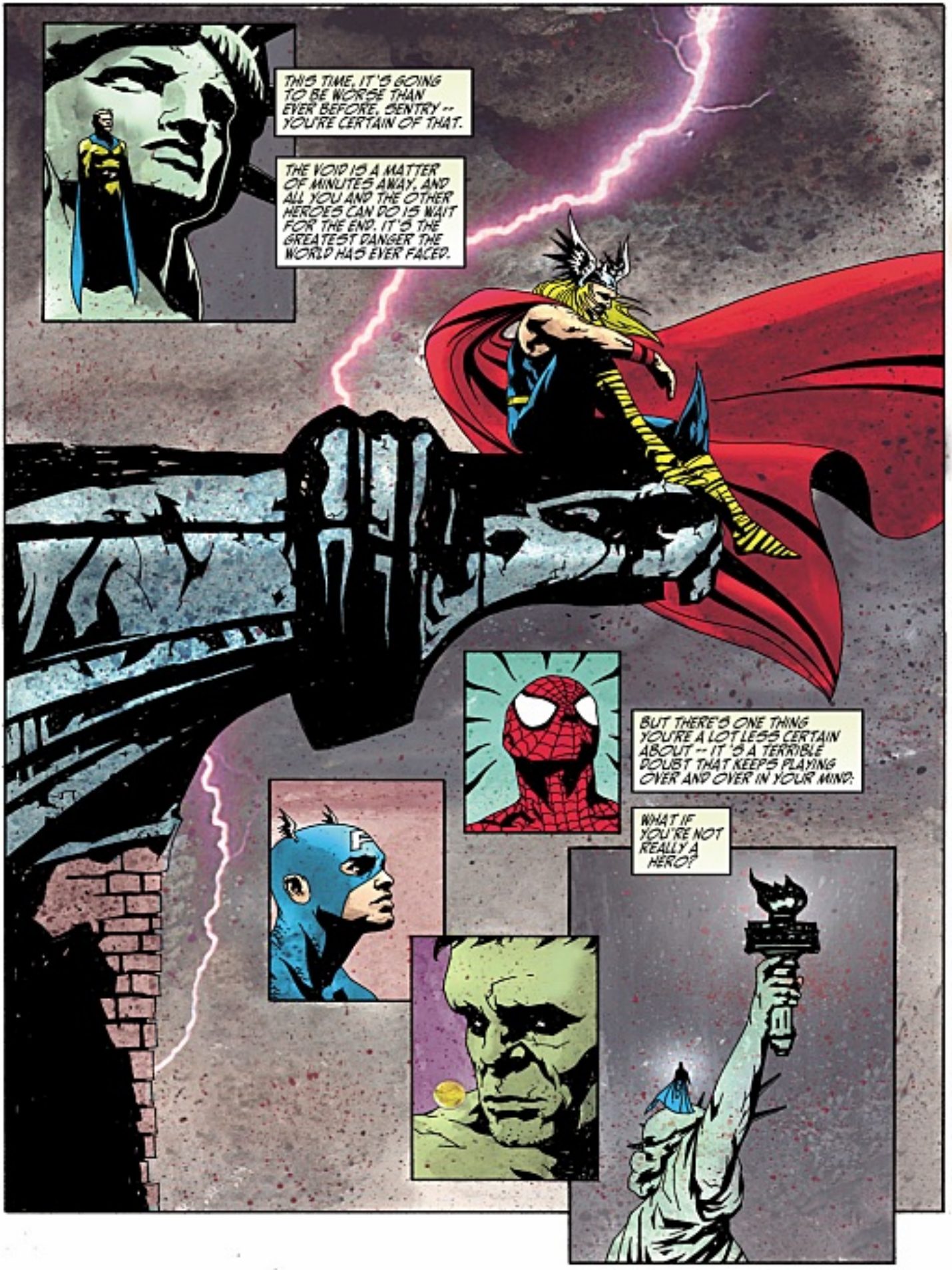
4

YOU BETRAYED ME, REED.
YOU HELPED ME DESIGN THE WATCHTOWER -- ONLY YOU WOULD'VE HAD THE TECHNICAL KNOW-HOW TO BYPASS CLOC AND GIVE HIM AN ORDER HE THOUGHT WAS COMING FROM ME.

WHY DID YOU DO IT -- WASN'T IT ENOUGH TO KILL ME? DID YOU HAVE TO DESTROY EVERYTHING I WAS IN THE PROCESS?
NO! I... I DON'T REMEMBER --
...

ROBERT, YOU WERE MY BEST FRIEND. I WOULD NEVER KNOWINGLY HAVE HURT YOU... YOU HAVE TO BELIEVE ME --
NO, I DON'T.

YOU ONCE TOLD ME YOU'D TRUST ME WITH YOUR LIFE. YOU SAID I COULD EXPECT THE SAME FROM YOU. ALWAYS.
HOW EASILY WE FORGET. Huh, REED?


THIS TIME, IT'S GOING TO BE WORSE THAN EVER BEFORE, SENTRY -- YOU'RE CERTAIN OF THAT.
THE VOID IS A MATTER OF MINUTES AWAY, AND ALL YOU AND THE OTHER HEROES CAN DO IS WAIT FOR THE END. IT'S THE GREATEST DANGER THE WORLD HAS EVER FACED.
BUT THERE'S ONE THING YOU'RE A LOT LESS CERTAIN ABOUT -- IT'S A TERRIBLE DOUBT THAT KEEPS PLAYING OVER AND OVER IN YOUR MIND:
WHAT IF YOU'RE NOT REALLY A HERO?